

HONORING THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF HAI-
TIAN PROFESSIONALS

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise to mark the fifth anniversary of the National Alliance for the Advancement of Haitian Professionals (NAAHP) and to honor its years of service to the Haitian-American community and our nation.

NAAHP was founded in 2008 as the National Association of Haitian Professionals (NAHP) by a group of ambitious college students to connect Haitian professionals and build ladders of opportunity for the Haitian diaspora domestically and abroad. In 2015, NAHP officially became the National Alliance for the Advancement of Haitian Professionals to reflect the organization's growth and pursuit of new initiatives since its launch in 2011.

In the past five years, NAAHP has become one of the leading associations for Haitian professionals and also an advocate on issues affecting the global Haitian community.

NAAHP has hosted many conferences around the world to engage the Haitian diaspora, recognized influential Haitian leaders, awarded scholarships to students of Haitian descent, launched the Network After Work Social Hour Series, and offered year-round college readiness programs through its College Readiness Access & Retention Institute.

NAAHP has led the Haitian diaspora in confronting a number of issues affecting Haitians abroad. Since 2015, it has been one of the foremost advocates fighting the denaturalization of Dominicans of Haitian descent. In response to Haiti's derailed 2015 presidential elections, NAAHP proposed several solutions which were adopted and helped to mitigate the political crisis.

Every year, the NAAHP conference gathers Haitians from around the world to highlight the Haitian diaspora's success, network, and share solutions to address Haiti's challenges. I am so pleased that the NAAHP decided to convene in Washington, D.C., for its fifth annual conference. As the Member of Congress representing the Congressional District with the largest population of Haitians, it gives me great pleasure to welcome NAAHP and the diaspora to Washington.

This year's honorees include Congresswoman MIA LOVE (UT-4), Washington D.C. Attorney General Karl Racine, National Urban League president Marc Morial, entrepreneur Leanna Archer, and renowned architect Rodney Leon.

I personally thank Robert Raben, Cleve Mesidor, and Donald Gatlin from the Raben Group, Suze Francois, Albert DeCady, Ambassador Paul Altidor, Naomie Pierre-Louis, Ariel Dominique, and everyone at the Embassy of the Republic of Haiti, 1 Click, Off the Ground Solutions, Haiti Renewal Alliance, and Azure College for their unwavering support of NAAHP.

I commend the NAAHP leadership team for their commitment, dedication, and excellence.

The executive management team includes Serge Renaud (president), Marie Myka Texas,

Samuel Charles, Vladimir "Vlad" Gilbert, Regine Albin, Ketsia Saint-Armand, Victoria Winslow, Kathy W. Elisca Clermont, Widline Luctama, Tracy Vertus, Kristia M. Beaubrun, Claslyne Doris Jean Pierre, Verlene Julceus, and Malika Raquel Bernard.

The Board of Directors consists of Dr. Wilkerson Compere (chairman), Samuel Charles, Mackendy Elmera, Serge Renaud, Dr. Cledicianne Dorvil, and Anide Jean.

The Advisory Board is co-chaired by Dr. Marjorie Pierre Brennan and Miche Jean, and includes Nathalie Liautaud, Bruno Surpris, Dr. C. Reynold Verret, Dr. Paul A. Belony, Ambassador Danielle Saint-Lot, Jaques M. Jean, Brigitte Rousseau, Adler C. Eliacin, and Harold Charles.

The Scholarship Committee is led by co-chairs Dr. Marjorie P. Brennan and Jacques Medina Jean, and includes Widline Luctama, Regine Albin, Bruno Surpris, and Miche Jean.

The Advocacy Committee is under the leadership of the Honorable Judge Lionel Jean-Baptiste, Joanne Antoine, and Cassandre Theano.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you, my colleagues in Congress, and all Americans to please join me in honoring the National Alliance for the Advancement of Haitian Professionals on their fifth anniversary and for hosting this year's conference in our nation's capital.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF MR.
BUTCH RAMIREZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Butch Ramirez, a professional photographer whose work has been chosen to be displayed as part of the newly commissioned nuclear submarine, the USS *Illinois* (SSN-786).

Growing up in Webb County, Texas, hunting and fishing were regular parts of Mr. Ramirez's life. Mr. Ramirez decided to expand his passion for hunting and fishing by pursuing an interest in photography. He quickly developed a talent and enthusiasm for capturing some of nature's most beautiful and rare wildlife in the South Texas area. Over the course of his career capturing photos of wildlife, Mr. Ramirez's photographs have been selected for the cover of magazines on 25 separate occasions. One of Mr. Ramirez's most notable pieces of photography is his photo of the White-tailed deer that has been chosen to represent the crest of this newest Virginia class submarine through an extensive selecting process.

Mr. Ramirez has also led exclusive photo workshops for people from all over the world at his ranch in Laredo, TX. In addition, his ranch, Rocking R6, is an official stop for the Laredo Birding Festival. Those interested in the history and photography of animals come to his ranch specifically because of the rare species of birds that can be found there including, the Crested Caracara, Green Jay, and the Red-billed Pigeon.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the work of Mr. Butch Ramirez.

IN HONOR OF 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF ST. ILLUMINATOR ARMENIAN
APOSTOLIC CATHEDRAL

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of St. Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Cathedral located in the district I represent in Manhattan, New York. It was the first Armenian church established in New York City.

After fleeing to the United States in the late 19th and early 20th century following the Hamidian Massacres and Armenian Genocide in the Ottoman Empire, the Armenians of New York City did not have their own church to worship in together. They held religious services in various churches, most of which were located in the neighborhood of the current cathedral. Purchasing a church was initially proposed in 1913. A successful fundraising effort allowed construction to begin for what was then known as the central cathedral of the Armenian Apostolic Church in 1915. The Cathedral officially opened its doors in 1916, but parishioners celebrated the Cathedral's centennial throughout 2015 at the same time as the centennial of the Armenian Genocide in Ottoman Turkey in 1915.

For over a century, St. Illuminator's Cathedral has played a significant role in advocating for Armenians in the U.S. and around the world. Many Genocide survivors found their refuge in the United States, entering the country through Ellis Island. St. Illuminator came to serve as shelter to many of them once they arrived. Today, there remains a vibrant congregation, inspiring their community through faith and service.

I extend my congratulations to the pastor, Rev. Fr. Mesrob Lakissian who has led the church for 10 years, the Board of Trustees, and all members and friends of St. Illuminator, and wish them many more years of success and service to the Armenian American community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the anniversary of St. Illuminator's Cathedral and its contributions to the Armenian American residents of Manhattan, Queens and Brooklyn as well as the larger Armenian American community in the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, If I were present, I would have voted YES on roll call number 601 to H.R. 5015.

If I were present, I would have voted YES on roll call number 602 to H.R. 6427.

If I were present, I would have voted YES on roll call number 603 to House Amendment to S. 1635.

If I were present, I would have voted YES on roll call number 604 to H.R. 6394.

If I were present, I would have voted YES on roll call number 605 to H. Res. 939.